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(54) **Seal with guide member**

(57) An oil seal having the usual lips for retaining oil and a guide member made of a variety of relatively stiff or rigid materials. The guide member is made slightly larger than the smallest diameter of the seal member when the seal rests on the shaft. The seal member can

have the guide member on either the air side or the oil side of the seal. The disclosure also relates to a shipping plug, which is inserted into the seal and retains the oil in place during shipping when the seal is installed but a shaft is not installed.

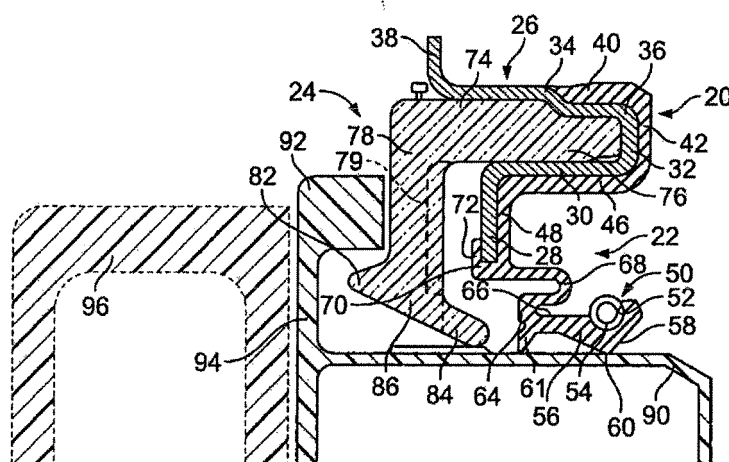


FIG. 1



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 2004/169338 A1 (HINTENLANG GUNTER [DE] ET AL) 2 September 2004 (2004-09-02)	9,10	INV. F16J15/32
Y	* column 2, lines 49-55; figure 1 *	1-8, 11-14	
Y	----- US 6 357 757 B1 (HIBBLER JOHN CLINTON [US] ET AL) 19 March 2002 (2002-03-19) * figures 1-4 *	1-8, 11-14	
A	----- US 6 406 034 B1 (ALCANTARA AVISSAI [MX] ET AL) 18 June 2002 (2002-06-18) * the whole document *	15	
Y	----- DE 23 40 275 B1 (FORD WERKE AG) 17 October 1974 (1974-10-17) * figure 1 *	16,17	
Y	----- US 2005/109889 A1 (HELDMANN MARTIN [DE] ET AL) 26 May 2005 (2005-05-26) * paragraphs [0006] - [0008]; figures 1-7 *	16,17	
Y	----- EP 1 375 308 A (ITW ESPANA SA [ES]) 2 January 2004 (2004-01-02) * figures 3-5 *	16,17	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) F16J
7 The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 7 July 2008	Examiner Bindreiff, Romain
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

**CLAIMS INCURRING FEES**

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

- Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:
- The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-15

These group is further divided into two sub-groups

1.1. claims: 1-14

An oil seal having a seal casing including a first portion adapted to be received in a machine counterbore, a return portion being spaced radially inwardly from said portion received in said machine counterbore to define a channel between said first and said return portions, and a radially inwardly directed flange, an elastomeric seal including a seal body being supported by and extending from said flange, said seal body having air and oil side surfaces meeting along a seal band of intended contact with a rotary member, and a funnel shaped guide member, said funnel shaped guide member having an axially extending mounting portion received in said channel, said funnel shaped portion tapering from wider to narrower as it approaches said air side of said seal, said funnel having a minimum inside diameter larger than the diameter of said seal band.

1.2. claim: 15

An oil and an associated plug, the oil seal having a seal casing including a first portion adapted to be received in a machine counterbore, a return portion being spaced radially inwardly from said portion received in said machine counterbore to define a channel between said first and said return portions, and a radially inwardly directed flange, an elastomeric seal including a seal body being supported by and extending from said flange, said seal body having air and oil side surfaces meeting along a seal band of intended contact with a rotary member, and a funnel shaped guide member, said funnel shaped guide member having an axially extending mounting portion received in said channel, said funnel shaped portion tapering from wider to narrower as it approaches said air side of said seal, said funnel having a minimum inside diameter larger than the diameter of said seal band.
and the shipping plug for said seal having a cylindrical body portion snugly engaging said seal band, a closed off portion and plural raised ribs on cylindrical portion, said ribs being spaced axially from said closed off end portion and snugly engaging the inner diameter of the guide member.

2. claims: 16-17



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

a shipping plug having a cylindrical body portion, a closed off portion and plural raised ribs spaced axially from said closed off portion.

Please note that all inventions mentioned under item 1, although not necessarily linked by a common inventive concept, could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee.

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 07 12 1361

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

07-07-2008

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